

To: Crossland, Ronnie[Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov]; Edlund, Carl[Edlund.Carl@epa.gov]; Coleman, Sam[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew[loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Webster, Susan[webster.susan@epa.gov]
From: Gray, David
Sent: Sun 8/9/2015 7:49:45 PM
Subject: City and County Declare State of Local Emergency
state of local emergency pr and packet 08.09.15.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, please

August 9, 2015

contact: Joanne Spina (La Plata County) at (970) 759-1102
p.m.

12:00

or Sherri Dugdale (City of Durango) at (970) 903-8320

City and County Declare State of Local Emergency

Durango, CO: Effective at noon today, the City of Durango and La Plata County have each proclaimed a State of Local Emergency in their jurisdictions due to the contamination of the Animas River. The declaration was made after consultation with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Town of Silverton, San Juan Basin Health Department, San Juan County, Colorado, and San Juan County, New Mexico and is in response to the release of approximately one million gallons of waste water from the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colorado triggered by work that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was doing to investigate contamination at the mine.

In declaring a State of Local Emergency, the City and County activate the response and recovery aspects of their local disaster emergency plans, which allows resources to be shared among responding agencies.

“This action has been taken due to the serious nature of the incident and to convey the grave concerns that local elected officials have to ensure that all appropriate levels of state and federal

resources are brought to bear to assist our community not only in actively managing this tragic incident but also to recover from it,” explained Joe Kerby, La Plata County Manager.

Per State Statute, the chief executive officer of a political subdivision of the State has the authority to declare a State of Local Emergency for up to seven days, after which it may be continued by official action of the governing board. Durango City Council and La Plata County Commissioners will consider the renewal of the emergency declaration at their respective public meetings to be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.

The Durango City Council will meet on Tuesday, August 11th at 3:45 p.m. in the Smith Chambers at City Hall (949 E. 2nd Avenue).

The La Plata County Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administration Building Board Room (1101 E. 2nd Avenue).

###

Flannery O’Neil, MPH

Health Planner and Communications Director

San Juan Basin Health Department

(970)335-2087

www.sjbhd.org